

NURSING BOARD[655]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 147.76, the Board of Nursing hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 3, “Licensure to Practice—Registered Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendments make the requirements for license by examination of foreign-educated nurses the same for both RNs and LPNs. The amendments will also require foreign-educated nurses who are applying for licensure by endorsement to have the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools submit a credentials evaluation prior to issuance of a nursing license.

Any interested person may make written comments or suggestions on or before April 27, 2010. Such written materials should be directed to the Executive Director, Iowa Board of Nursing, RiverPoint Business Park, 400 S.W. 8th Street, Suite B, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4685. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Executive Director at (515)281-3256, or in the Board office at 400 S.W. 8th Street, by appointment.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 147, 152 and 272C.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subparagraph **3.4(4)“a”(2)** as follows:

(2) Determine eligibility of each applicant upon receipt of:

1. to 4. No change.

5. Official nursing transcript denoting date of entry and date of graduation validated by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) ~~or submitted by the program if the original transcript is in English.~~

6. No change.

7. ~~Official certification submitted by CGFNS for registered nurse applicants~~ Full education course-by-course report submitted by CGFNS for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants.

8. ~~Nursing and science course report submitted by CGFNS for licensed practical nurse applicants.~~

9. 8. Verification of ability to read, write, speak and understand the English language as determined by the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants. ~~The board shall determine the TOEFL passing standard.~~ Applicants shall be exempt from the TOEFL or IELTS examination when the native language is English; nursing education was completed in a college, university or professional school located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand or the United Kingdom; language of instruction in the nursing program was English; and language of the textbooks in the nursing program was English.

ITEM 2. Amend subparagraphs **3.4(4)“b”(4), (6), (7) and (8)** as follows:

(4) Direct CGFNS to validate the official nursing transcript ~~or direct the nursing education program to submit to the board an official nursing transcript in English denoting the date of entry, date of graduation, and diploma or degree conferred.~~

(6) ~~Complete CGFNS certification requirements for registered nurse applicants~~ the full education course-by-course report application of the CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants.

~~(7) Complete nursing and science course report requirements of the CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Service for practical nurse applicants.~~

~~(8)~~ (7) Complete TOEFL or IELTS requirements for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants.

ITEM 3. Renumber subparagraphs **3.4(4)“b”(9)** to **(12)** as **3.4(4)“b”(8)** to **(11)**.

ITEM 4. Renumber subrules **3.5(3)** and **3.5(4)** as **3.5(4)** and **3.5(5)**.

ITEM 5. Adopt the following new subrule 3.5(3):

3.5(3) *Application—individuals educated and licensed in another country.*

a. The board shall:

(1) Provide application forms and instructions to applicants upon request.

(2) Determine eligibility of each applicant upon receipt of an application, fingerprint packet, fees, official nursing transcript denoting date of entry and date of graduation validated by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), validation of licensure/registration in the original country by CGFNS, full education course-by-course report from CGFNS, and verification of license submitted by state of original license or the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

b. The applicant shall:

(1) Submit completed application for licensure by endorsement, including two sets of the completed fingerprint packet.

(2) Submit fee for application for licensure by endorsement plus the fee for evaluation of the fingerprint packet and the criminal history background checks as identified in the definition of “fees” in rule 655—3.1(17A,147,152,272C). All fees are nonrefundable.

(3) Direct CGFNS to validate the official nursing transcript.

(4) Direct CGFNS to validate licensure/registration in the original country.

(5) Apply for the full education course-by-course report application of the CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse applicants, or direct CGFNS to verify that a certificate letter was issued, or send the completed CES report to the board.

(6) Inform the board of primary state of residence and current mailing address.

(7) Submit a copy of a sentencing order(s) with the license application if an applicant has a criminal conviction history.

ITEM 6. Adopt the following new paragraph **3.5(4)“e”**:

e. A temporary license shall not be issued to an applicant educated and licensed in another country until the full education course-by-course report application of the CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) has been received by the board, CGFNS has verified that a certificate letter was issued, or a completed CES report has been sent to the board.